THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY.

Rev.3:8"Behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it."

INTRO. Text taken from the the Book of Revelation, from that portion in address to the Churchs: specifically to the Church af Philadelphia.

Text probably refers to the opportunity of the Church at Philadelphia to evangelize the surrounding region.

We shall apply it in the broad sense of Opportunity for every individual and every church and otherorganization.

I. THE OPEN DOOR OF ORPORTUNITY.

1. Opportunity as pictured by some men.

Lysippus, an ancient Greek, represented opportunity as a figure in full flight, with winged feet and panting speed. On the brow a lock of hair, but with the back of the head bald. To grasp that fleet figure one must face it and grip it by the forelock. To miss it is to lose it forever.

Shakespeare had the same idea when he wrote,

"There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at theflood, leads on to vfortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of our life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries."

2. Contrasted with this view is God's view of opportunity.

a. God's door of opportunity is set ajar and no man can close it.

Every new day is an open door of opportunity.

God is alwys seeking to quicken the conscience, arouse the will, and stinulate the endeavor to attain a worthier manhood.

is one big chance of new achievement, of spir itual quest and moral conquest.

II. But the value of our opportunity depends upon the choice we make.

We may use it or abuse it, uplift it or degrade it: and whatever we do with it, it will iether transform us of disfigure us. Which shall it be this day? this week?, this month? this ~~church~~ year?

"Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more. Behold, now is the accepted time of opportunity

Let's not be ~~too cowardly~~ afraid to rénew our pledges.

In sunday school lets be better students and teachers of the Word. In C. E — lets have our standard

In private devotions lets be more faithful to communion with God. Lets make the quiet hour a daily experience with consequent ever-increasing blessings.

~~Lets be more~~ exemplary in our Christian conduct, making Christ more attractive to others and less repellant than we have done in the past

Lets not allow our past to handicap us in our renewed efforts to accept God's opportunities.

The old-fashioned school teacher Friday nite.

How we use to cover our bodies with unnecessary and unhealthy clothing. Bustles, corsets, red flannel shirts, etc.

Now we seek the sunlite and bathe our bodies in its healing rays. Now we let the fresh air enter our pores, opening them with frequent baths

We have broken away from old styles and customs for health's sake.

For the sake of our soul's health, let us break away from our old habits of bustling them and corsetting them. Let us bathe our souls in the sunlite of God's love and goodness.

III. This door of opportunity is also open to the renewal of achievement in all worthy lines.

Art, music, literature.